

S 2412

PALS Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Jul 21, 2021

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S5

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S5020) (Jul 21, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2412>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Jul 21, 2021
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 21, 2021
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 26, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jul 26, 2021
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Jul 27, 2021
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Aug 4, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 21, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 4612	Identical bill	Sep 7, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screenings Act of 2021 or the PALS Act

This bill makes a series of changes relating to health insurance coverage of screening mammography.

Specifically, the bill requires that any provision of law referring to current recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) with respect to breast cancer screening mammography be administered as if (1) the provision referred to USPSTF recommendations last issued before 2009; and (2) those recommendations applied to any screening mammography modality, including any digital modality of such a procedure. This requirement shall also apply to the Veterans Health Administration's policy on mammography screening for veterans.

In addition, the bill preserves Medicare coverage for screening mammography, without a requirement for coinsurance, and expands the definition of screening mammography to include any digital modality of such a procedure. Further, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services may not decrease the frequency with which screening mammography may be paid by Medicare for a woman over 39 years of age.

In 2009, the USPSTF updated its guidelines to recommend against routine screening mammography for women between 40 to 49 years of age and to recommend biennial, instead of annual, screening mammography for most women between 50 to 74 years of age. In 2015, through the appropriations process, a three-year moratorium was placed on implementing the guidelines; the moratorium was subsequently renewed until January 1, 2023.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 21, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 21, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S5020)